Five Finalists Chosen for the 2012 Asia Society
Bernard Schwartz Book Award

(New York, August 2, 2012) Five pioneering books recognized for their outstanding contributions to the understanding of contemporary Asia have been chosen as finalists for the 2012 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award. The finalists were selected from nearly 90 nominations submitted by U.S. and Asia-based publishers for books published in 2011. The books are:

- *Cambodia's Curse: The Modern History of a Troubled Land* by Joel Brinkley (PublicAffairs)
- *China in Ten Words* by Yu Hua (Pantheon Books)
- *Water: Asia's New Battleground* by Brahma Chellaney (Georgetown University Press)
- *Where China Meets India: Burma and the New Crossroads of Asia* by Thant Myint-U (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

The five finalists were selected by a jury co-chaired by Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of History at Columbia University, and Tommy T. B. Koh, Singapore’s Ambassador-at-Large, and composed of leading experts and figures in policy, academia, journalism, and publishing from India, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States.

“It is now an accepted premise that Asia—with more than half of the world’s population, along with half of world trade and half the global economy—will play a central role in shaping the future of our world,” said Suzanne DiMaggio, Vice President of Asia Society’s Global Policy Programs. “The five finalists for the 2012 Bernard Schwartz Book Award each, in different ways, shed light on important trends, challenges, and opportunities taking place in Asia. They are required reading for all who want to better understand this dynamic region.”

The winning author of the 2012 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award, who will be awarded a $20,000 prize, and two honorable mentions, each receiving a $2,000 prize, will be named in September. A special event in their honor will be held at Asia Society’s New York City headquarters in late fall 2012.

